

February 13, 2011

Bill 6201

Honored members of the Transportation Committee:

As owner of a State Licensed Driving School in Connecticut I am in support of Senate Bill 6201.

AN ACT REQUIRING PROFESSIONAL ROAD LESSONS FOR NEWLY LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS.

It would make sense to me that we should be concerned about all new drivers intending to get a license other than just our teenagers. It was decided in 2008 that 16 and 17 year olds must have at least seventy hours of driver education (30 hours of classroom and 40 hours of behind the wheel training) before being allowed to apply for their license. And there are plenty of parents and driving instructors that will tell you that for some of these students this is not enough.

Why are we only concerned about our teenager's safety and not the rest of the motoring public? In my experience as a driving instructor for the past fifteen years, it's the adults that aren't required the training that need the training the most. Most teenagers have the help and support of their parents to move them along. Where as many adults do not.

Many adults just get in the 8 hour Safe Driving Practices Class and go to the DMV with no behind the wheel training and in their own cars test putting our State Inspectors at great risk. I am sure if you ask your State Inspectors they will give you an idea how helpful it would be if everyone had behind the wheel training before they took the test. The only time it's required that an adult have any behind the wheel training before testing is if they are going to take the test in a yearly state inspected driving school car with an instructor brake put in.

Putting better educated drivers on the road seems like the safe thing to do for all of the motoring public.

Thank you for you time and consideration.

Cici Petri
CC Driver Education
68 Hartford Turnpike
Tolland, Ct 06084
860 875 8211